



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2015

**CONTACT:** Rep. Barnes

608.266.3756

## **PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE - WISCONSIN SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKING FAMILIES**

**MADISON** – Wisconsin State Representative Mandela Barnes (D – Milwaukee) released the following statement regarding Assembly passage of Senate Bill 44:

“The question has been asked that if Walker considers Wisconsin workers his enemies, then who does he considers his friends? Wisconsin Democrats have long known that Walker and his allies’ friends are extreme corporate special interests that unashamedly prevent our neighbors and families from getting ahead and achieving the American Dream.

“This could not be any more clear given the unnecessary, rushed push for extreme legislation that robs Wisconsin workers of our rights and freedoms in the workplace, drives down family wages, takes funding away from high-demand worker training programs, and makes workplaces less safe. And this grand feat of government interference in private relationships between businesses and workers is only the latest attack on neighbors and families across our state.

“After all, Walker’s disastrous budget proposal will decimate our state’s main economic engine by cutting more than \$300 million from the UW System; it continues the governor’s legacy of destruction to our public schools by again slashing their funding while allowing an unlimited transfer of taxpayer dollars to private schools; and it undermines Wisconsin’s proud lifesaving and taxpayer-saving programs for our seniors and most vulnerable citizens.

“While Wisconsin Republican leadership ashamedly attempts to blame hard-working Wisconsinites for the hole Gov. Walker and his allies dug our state into, I believe in a different path for Wisconsin. This path stands up for real workplace freedom and economic opportunity in our state by investing in the working class and growing our economy from the bottom up. It guarantees that our children and future generations can achieve their fullest potential by fully funding our local public schools and making sure our children have the support needed to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. And it ensures that our elders, parents, and children have the security of quality health care coverage.

“Unlike the despicable tactics Wisconsin Republicans are using to rig the rules for corporate special interests and prevent our neighbors and families from getting ahead and achieving the American Dream, these are the ideas that will move Wisconsin forward and give people in our community a chance at forging a stable life in the middle class.”

###